

Regional and local authorities

Enhancing cooperation & Quality of public administration



The flagship technical support request

This flagship offers support to Member States on **enhancing central coordination of the State with regional and local authorities** and **capacity building** to reinforce their coordination structures. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of **quality of public administration** through State capacity in terms of policy coordination, cooperation, responsiveness, and resource mobilisation. Yet weak coordination across different levels of government and the imbalanced allocation of competencies are still challenges that limit the impact of State policies. As such, the support provided with this flagship is highly relevant in the current context of recovery where coordinated planning and strategic foresight will be key for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plans.

Support benefits at a glance

- **Better quality of public administration** and coordination of all levels of the State
- Better policy results that take into account national and local needs
- Better planning of public finances and investments
- Improved strategic foresight



Quality of public administration at all levels of government is a foundation for achieving **prosperous, sustainable and resilient societies and economies.**



Local and regional governments play a pivotal role in achieving the national and EU's policy objectives:

Fact 1: There are almost **95 000 regional and local authorities** in the EU.

Fact 2: They implement 70% of all **EU legislation**, do one third of **public spending** and two thirds of **EU public investments**

Fact 3: They help ensure the exercise of **European democracy and citizenship** and play a major role in terms of **climate mitigation and adaption.**

Opportunity addressed with this flagship project

The development of operational recommendations to improve the effective implementation of policy initiatives, structural reforms and to better manage public investments. The aim is to promote the **quality of public administration.**



IMPACT OBJECTIVES

Improved capacity to design and plan public policies taking into possible futures.

Improved coordination between central and local levels for the design and implementation of public policies.

Improved effectiveness and performance of public administration.



HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE BETTER COORDINATION?

The support mainly focuses on the quality of public administration through better coordination between central, regional and local administration at two levels:

- **The allocation of responsibilities**
- **Coordination processes**
- **Development of strategic foresight in the design and implementation of public policies**

It will be structured along **five activity packages**, each comprised of measures that Member States can apply to **one or multiple policy areas**. The focus on specific areas will allow the development of operational recommendations to improve the coordination:



Functional mapping

Identify overlaps, gaps or unclearities in the allocation of competencies: imbalance between responsibilities and resources as well as fragmentation or complexity of roles.



Process mapping

Analyse current processes and coordination mechanisms for policy design, implementation and monitoring across the different levels in selected policy areas.



Strategic foresight analysis

Capture the current capacity of the central and local level to collectively integrate strategic foresight and planning in the design and implementation of public policies.



Recommendation report

Provide recommendations to enhance the allocation of responsibilities, the coordination and information sharing.



Implementation and capacity building

Build capacity through support to knowledge-sharing, training programmes and the implementation of mechanisms and digital tools.

THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Clear actions plans to be implemented

Improved strategic foresight

Resilient public administration